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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN, LOUISIANA,
CHAIRMAN
December 23, 2002

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DAVID V. MARVENTANO, STAFF DIRECTOR

The Honorable Timothy Muris
Chairman
Federal Trade Commission
6th and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20580

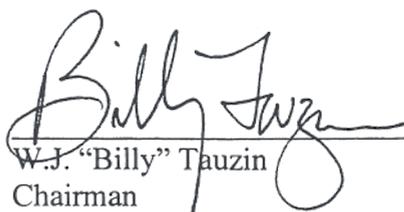
Dear Chairman Muris:

We are writing to inform you of our opposition to the inclusion of any language in the 2003 omnibus spending bill that would authorize the collection of fees by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC or Commission) to implement its proposed amendments to the Telemarketing Sales Rule. Although the goals of your request are admirable, it would authorize the FTC to conduct new activities. A request of this nature must be subject to regular order and be debated in the Committee on Energy and Commerce -- the FTC's authorizing committee.

The language that the Commission has proposed to both House and Senate appropriators would authorize the FTC to collect fees from telemarketers to fund a national do-not-call list. Certainly, abusive telemarketing is a problem that should be addressed, and we are pleased that the FTC has taken such strong strides to assist American consumers. The Committee, however, has not had an adequate opportunity to properly review and evaluate this authorizing language. For this reason, we will oppose the inclusion of such language in the 2003 omnibus appropriations bill next year.

We invite you to testify before the Committee early in the 108th Congress, so that we may properly authorize the Commission to raise funds from telemarketers to support the do-not-call list. Please contact our Committee staff, majority counsel Kelly Zerzan at 225-2927, or minority counsel, Jonathan Cordone at 226-3400, to schedule a date. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


W.J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman


John D. Dingell
Ranking Member